THE UNTOLD STORY REVEALED!
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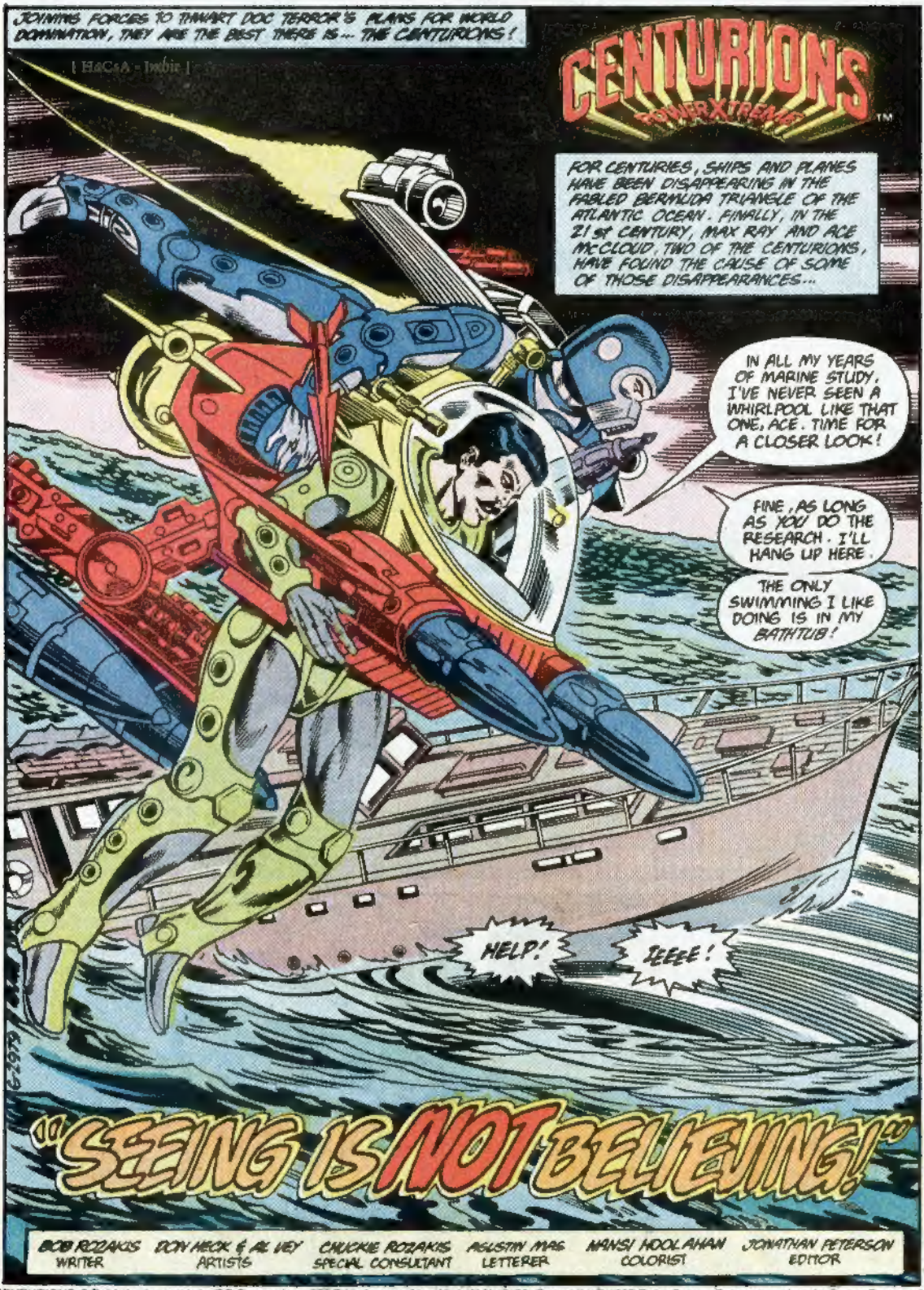
CENTURIONS
POWER XTREME
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SECOND OF FOUR ISSUES
THE ORIGIN OF THE CENTURIONS!
BY ROZAKIS, HECK AND VEY


JOINING FORCES TO THWART DOC TERROR'S PLANS FOR WORLD DOMINATION, THEY ARE THE BEST THERE IS... THE CENTURIONS!
CENTURIONS
POWER XTREME
FOR CENTURIES, SHIPS AND PLANES HAVE BEEN DISAPPEARING IN THE FABLED BERMUDA TRIANGLE OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. FINALLY, IN THE 21st CENTURY, MAX RAY AND ACE McCLOUD, TWO OF THE CENTURIONS, HAVE FOUND THE CAUSE OF SOME OF THOSE DISAPPEARANCES...
IN ALL MY YEARS OF MARINE STUDY, I'VE NEVER SEEN A WHIRLPOOL LIKE THAT ONE, ACE. TIME FOR A CLOSER LOOK!
FINE, AS LONG AS YOU DO THE RESEARCH. I'LL HANG UP HERE.
THE ONLY SWIMMING I LIKE DOING IS IN MY BATHTUB!
HELP!
IEEEE!
"SEEING IS NOT BELIEVING!"
BOB ROZAKIS WRITER
DON HECK & AL VEY ARTISTS
CHUCKIE ROZAKIS SPECIAL CONSULTANT
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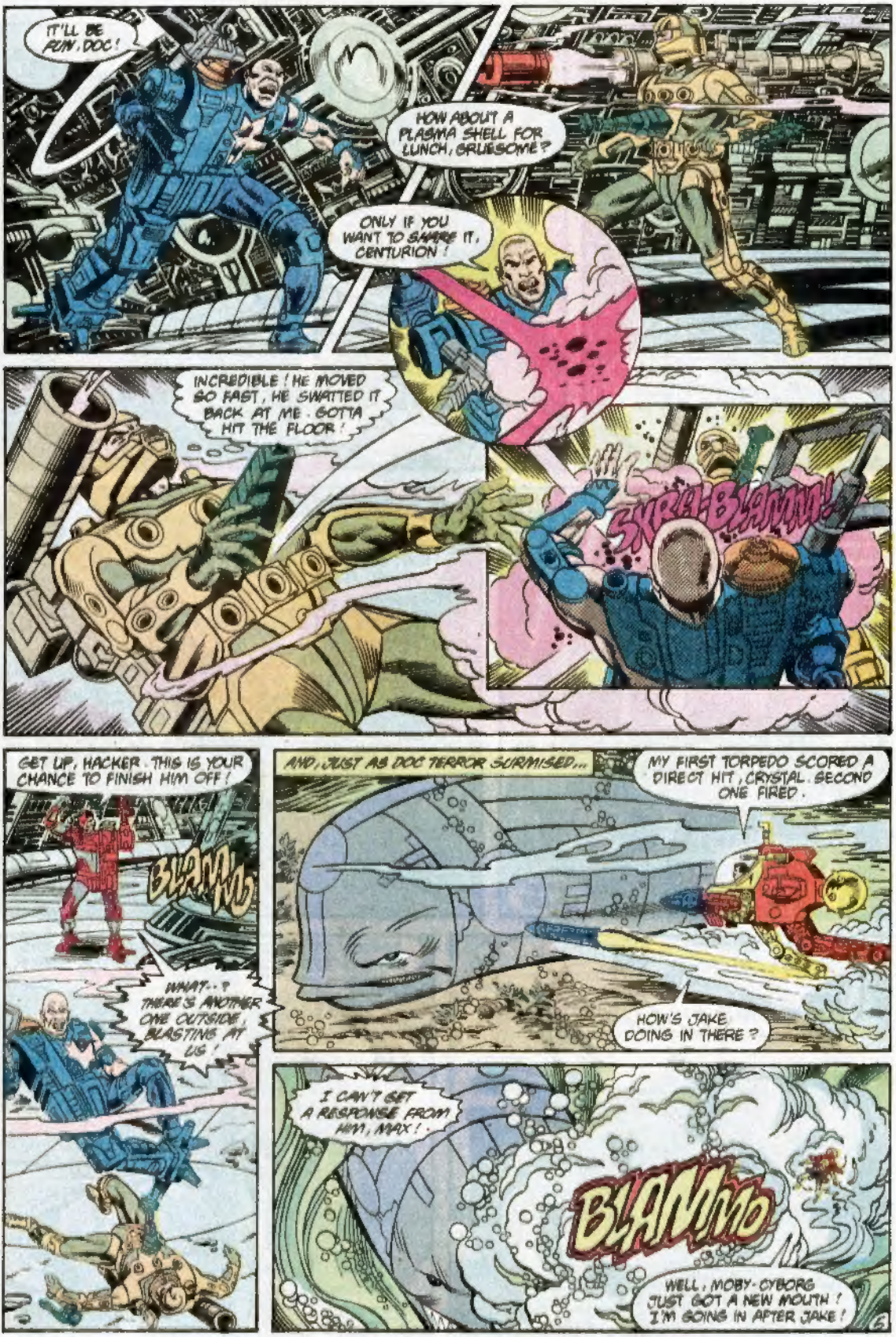
I'LL TRY NOT TO SPLASH YOU.
GOOD. I DON'T WANT TO POLISH UP SKYKNIGHT BECAUSE YOU GOT POLLUTED SALT WATER ON IT!
MAX TO SKYVAULT. I'M ALLOWING MYSELF TO GET SWEPT INTO THE WHIRLPOOL. CRYSTAL. DEPTH CHARGER CAN HANDLE THE PRESSURE.
ROGER, MAX. WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THOSE PEOPLE ON THAT YACHT!
SECOND THOUGHT, THE SUIT MAY BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS, BUT I'M GETTING DIZZY!
BUT NOT DIZZY ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT THIS WHIRLPOOL IS STOPPING!
IS THAT POSSIBLE?
UP UNTIL A MOMENT AGO, I'D HAVE SAID NO!
YOU SHOULD SEE IT FROM UP HERE, MAX. IT'S LIKE THERE WAS NEVER ANYTHING GOING ON. NO WONDER SO MANY SHIPS WERE NEVER FOUND!
STILL, WE KNOW THE YACHT'S DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE. ANY WAY YOU CAN HELP ME OUT, CRYSTAL?

WE SHOW A LARGE METALLIC OBJECT DUE WEST OF YOU, MAX.
THAT'S GOT TO BE WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR. CHANGING COURSE.
THERE'S WHAT YOU'RE TRACKING ON SKYVAULT'S SONAR, CRYSTAL, BUT IT'S NO SHIP!
IT'S A WHALE THAT MAKES MOBY DICK LOOK LIKE A GUPPY, PAL.
IT'S SWIMMING TOWARDS ME. I'LL GET A CLOSER LOOK.
HOLY CROW! YOU DON'T WANT A CLOSER LOOK, MAX. THAT'S NO ORDINARY WHALE--
--IT'S A CYBORG!
WHOMMPH!
IT'S MOVING AT INCREDIBLE SPEED! I CAN'T GET OUT OF ITS PATH--!

LOOKS LIKE I GET SOME ACTION AFTER ALL, CRYS. BEAM ME INSIDE THAT FLOATING MONSTER WITH FIREFORCE!
BET YOU A SOYSTEAK DINNER I'LL FIND DOC TERROR IN THERE!
POWERXTREME!
AND, IN THE WINK OF AN EYE...
WELL, JAKE...?
MAKE THOSE DINNER RESERVATIONS, CRYS--
MOVE-- BEFORE I CRUSH YOUR BONES TO JELLY!
--THIS PLACE IS OUTFITTED LIKE A GIANT LAB! THE YACHT'S HERE...
...AND SO ARE THE "UGLY BROTHERS," DOC TERROR AND HACKER!
TIME TO SAY HELLO--WITH MY LASERCANNONS!
K-BOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
ONE OF THE CENTURIONS! HE'S DISCOVERED US! DESTROY HIM, HACKER!
4


IT'LL BE FUN, DOC!
HOW ABOUT A PLASMA SHELL FOR LUNCH, GRUESOME?
ONLY IF YOU WANT TO SHARE IT, CENTURION!
INCREDIBLE! HE MOVED SO FAST, HE SWATTED IT BACK AT ME. GOTTA HIT THE FLOOR!
SKRA-BLAMM!
GET UP, HACKER. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO FINISH HIM OFF!
BLAM
WHAT..? THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OUTSIDE, BLASTING AT US!
AND, JUST AS DOC TERROR SURMISED...
MY FIRST TORPEDO SCORED A DIRECT HIT, CRYSTAL. SECOND ONE FIRED.
HOW'S JAKE DOING IN THERE?
I CAN'T GET A RESPONSE FROM HIM, MAX!
BLAMMO
WELL, MOBY-CYBORG JUST GOT A NEW MOUTH! I'M GOING IN AFTER JAKE!

JAKE TO SKYVAULT!
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE OKAY!
LUCKILY, MAX'S ATTACK DISTRACTED MY "HOSTS" JUST IN TIME. THEY'VE SKEDADDLED!
WHICH IS WHAT I'D BETTER BE DOING TOO. FIREFORCE WASN'T DESIGNED FOR UNDERWATER WORK!
BEAMING YOU BACK TO SKYVAULT.
IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP THEM, HACKER. WE MUST LEAVE.
BUT I WANT TO STAY AND DESTROY THE CENTURIONS.
SOON, HACKER. RIGHT NOW, WE MUST LEAVE. COME... QUICKLY!
SWIM
GLUBE
GOT THE WHALE IN MY SIGHTS, MAX. WANT ME TO OPEN AN AERIAL ASSAULT?
HOLD YOUR FIRE, ACE. CIVILIANS ARE SWIMMING OUT.
GUESS I CAN SAVE MY SHELLS FOR ANOTHER DAY. TERROR'S WHALE-SHIP JUST WENT BELLY-UP!
YAHOO! WE BEAT HIM THIS TIME!
ANY CHANCE YOU GUYS CAN NAB DOC TERROR, MAX?
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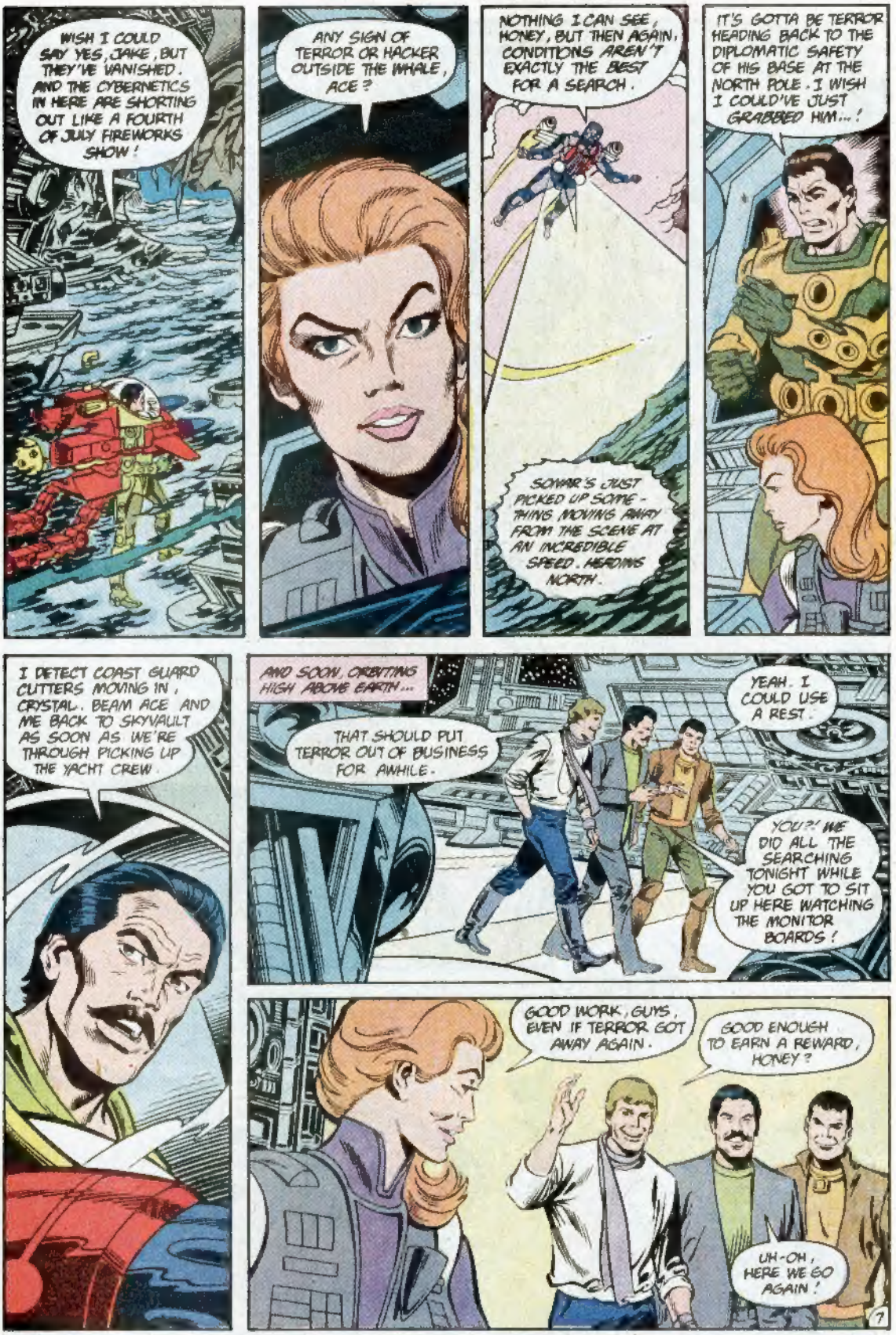
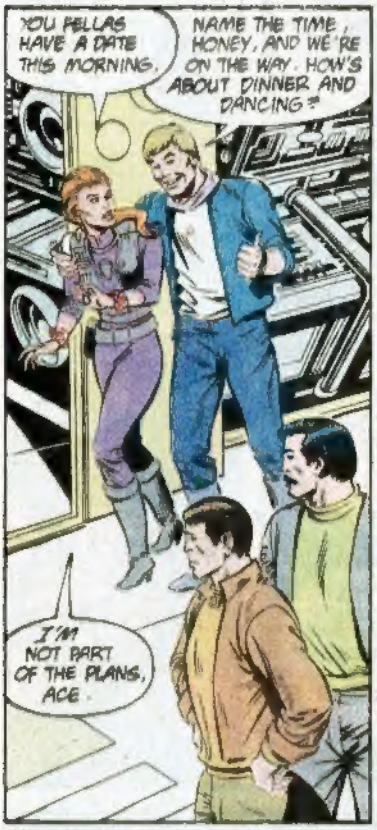

WISH I COULD SAY YES, JAKE, BUT THEY'VE VANISHED. AND THE CYBERNETICS IN HERE ARE SHORTING OUT LIKE A FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS SHOW!
ANY SIGN OF TERROR OR HACKER OUTSIDE THE WHALE, ACE?
NOTHING I CAN SEE, HONEY, BUT THEN AGAIN, CONDITIONS AREN'T EXACTLY THE BEST FOR A SEARCH.
SONAR'S JUST PICKED UP SOME-THING MOVING AWAY FROM THE SCENE AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED. HEADING NORTH.
IT'S GOTTA BE TERROR HEADING BACK TO THE DIPLOMATIC SAFETY OF HIS BASE AT THE NORTH POLE. I WISH I COULD'VE JUST GRABBED HIM...!
I DETECT COAST GUARD CUTTERS MOVING IN, CRYSTAL. BEAM ACE AND ME BACK TO SKYVAULT AS SOON AS WE'RE THROUGH PICKING UP THE YACHT CREW.
AND SOON, ORBITING HIGH ABOVE EARTH...
THAT SHOULD PUT TERROR OUT OF BUSINESS FOR AWHILE.
YEAH. I COULD USE A REST.
YOU?! WE DID ALL THE SEARCHING TONIGHT WHILE YOU GOT TO SIT UP HERE WATCHING THE MONITOR BOARDS!
GOOD WORK, GUYS, EVEN IF TERROR GOT AWAY AGAIN.
GOOD ENOUGH TO EARN A REWARD, HONEY?
UH-OH, HERE WE GO AGAIN!
7


YOU FELLAS HAVE A DATE THIS MORNING.
NAME THE TIME, HONEY, AND WE'RE ON THE WAY. HOW'S ABOUT DINNER AND DANCING?
I'M NOT PART OF THE PLANS, ACE.

THEN LET MAX AND JAKE GO. I'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP YOU COMPANY.
NO THANK YOU! AND KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF!
HEY. I...I...

ALL THREE OF YOU WILL BE INTERVIEWED BY A REPORTER NAMED AMY BURGER. SHE'S RESEARCHING A DOCUMENTARY ON THE CENTURIONS.
GRUMBLE. WOMAN'S PROBABLY A GREAT-GRANDMOTHER, TOO.
GROAN. ANOTHER ONE?
ALL I WANT IS A CHANCE TO REST. ROPE SOME DOGGIES ON MY RANCH.

YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO RELAX AFTER THE INTERVIEW, GUYS. BE READY TO BEAM DOWN TO NEW YORK HQ IN TEN MINUTES.
OKAY, BUT I'LL BE BACK FOR THAT DINNER YOU OWE ME, CRYS.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WANTED A REST!

SOON...
FOLLOWING THE THIRD WORLD WAR, GLOBAL PEACE WAS AT LAST ACHIEVED AS THE NATIONS RICH IN RESOURCES CHANNELED THAT WEALTH INTO HELPING DEVELOP THE POORER NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

WORLD POPULATION GREW AND TECHNOLOGY MADE IT POSSIBLE TO INHABIT EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE. DOCTOR ELIAS TERROR ESTABLISHED AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH BASE IN THE FROZEN WASTELAND OF THE ARCTIC, INITIALLY INHABITED ONLY BY TERROR, HIS DAUGHTER AMBER, AND HIS ASSISTANT.

BECAUSE OF HIS AMAZING DISCOVERIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS, THE WORLD COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADMIT DOCTOR TERROR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, RECOGNIZING HIS PREVIOUSLY UNINHABITABLE LAND AS A NEW SOVEREIGN NATION.
THE DOCTOR, HOWEVER, USED HIS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE REST OF THE WORLD, HIRING A SMALL ARMY OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS TO STEAL ADVANCED CYBERNETIC TECHNOLOGY FOR HIM.
THOUGH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE THEFTS WERE LAID AT TERROR'S FEET, HE WAS ABLE TO AVOID PROSECUTION BY REMAINING WITHIN HIS OWN NATIONAL BORDERS.
BUT THE THEFT PROVED TO BE THE LEAST OF TERROR'S THREATS. HE USED THE STOLEN TECHNOLOGY TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO AN INCREDIBLY POWERFUL HALF-MAN/HALF-COMPUTER.
WHEN HE ANNOUNCED HIS TRANSFORMATION, HE REVEALED THAT HE HAD DONE THE SAME TO HIS ASSISTANT.
THEN, PROTECTED BY HIS DIPLOMATIC STATUS, DOC TERROR VOWED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE WORLD WITH AN ARMY OF CYBORGS HE WOULD CREATE.
HANDCUFFED BY ITS OWN LAWS, THE WORLD COUNCIL WAS UNABLE TO ACT.
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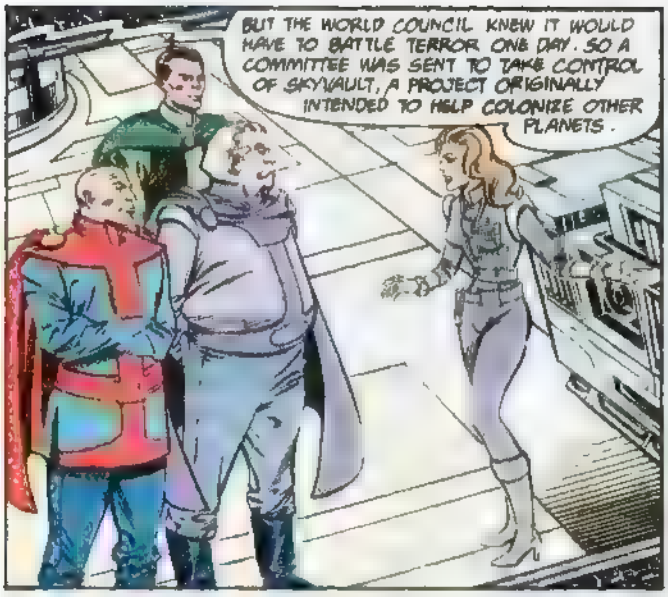
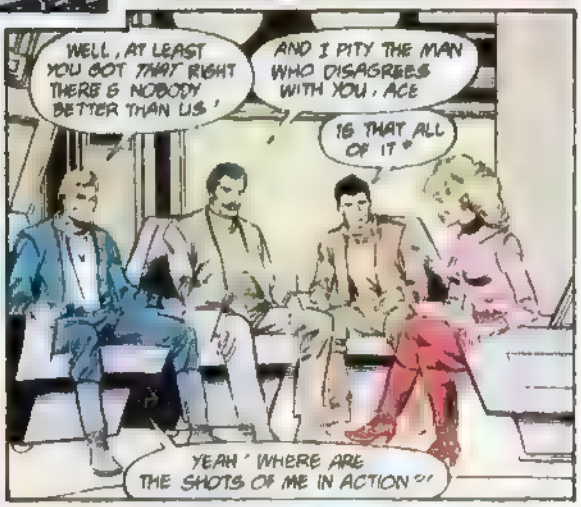

BUT THE WORLD COUNCIL KNEW IT WOULD HAVE TO BATTLE TERROR ONE DAY. SO A COMMITTEE WAS SENT TO TAKE CONTROL OF SKYVAULT, A PROJECT ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO HELP COLONIZE OTHER PLANETS.

THE PROJECT DIRECTED BY DR CRYSTAL KANE, WAS CONVERTED TO STOP DOC TERROR IN HIS TERRORIST PLANS...

...AND THUS WERE BORN THE CENTURIONS-- THE BEST THERE ARE TO PROTECT THE WORLD FROM THE WORST THERE IS!

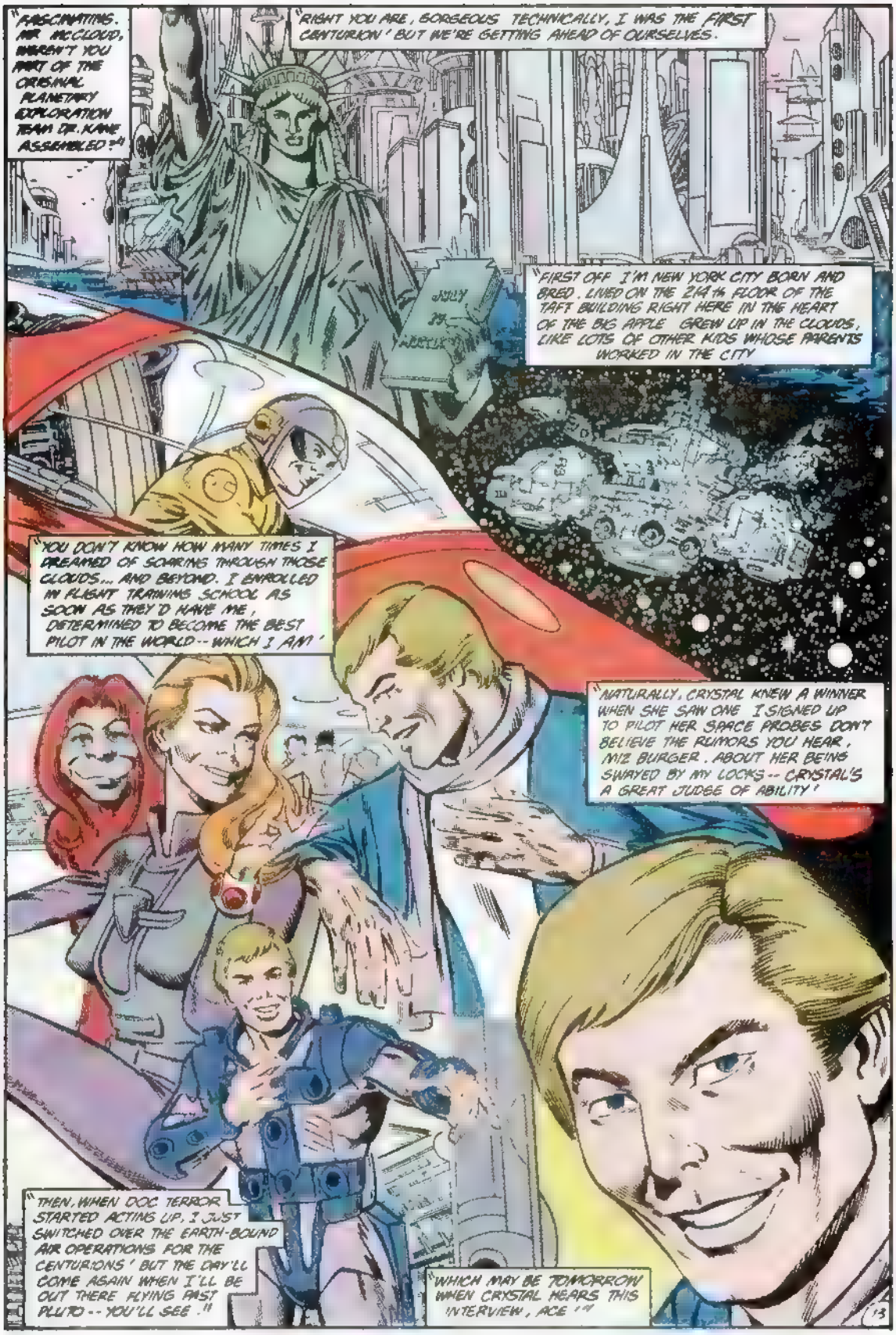

WELL, AT LEAST YOU GOT THAT RIGHT THERE'S NOBODY BETTER THAN US!
AND I PITY THE MAN WHO DISAGREES WITH YOU, ACE
IS THAT ALL OF IT?
YEAH! WHERE ARE THE SHOTS OF ME IN ACTION?!

THAT WILL COME LATER. FIRST I NEED SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOU THREE HOW YOU GOT WHERE YOU ARE, YOUR BACKGROUNDS IN YOUR VARIOUS FIELDS

HOW ABOUT YOU FIRST, MR RAY?
WELL...

"I WAS BORN IN SEATTLE... THREE YEARS AFTER THE GREAT FLOOD... SO I NEVER KNEW THE CITY WITHOUT THE PLEXIGLASS SEAWALL AROUND IT. NATURALLY WITH THE OCEAN PRACTICALLY OUTSIDE MY WINDOW, I BECAME INTERESTED IN THE LIFE WITHIN IT
"AT THE AGE OF 14, I DESIGNED A NUCLEAR MINI-SUBMARINE AS A SCIENCE PROJECT THE DESIGN GOT ME MY FIRST GOVERNMENT RESEARCH GRANT TO BUILD A FULL-SIZE MODEL. I USED IT TO CHART THE WATERS OUTSIDE SEATTLE
"AFTER THAT, I JUST KEPT GOING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE SEA. ITS MYSTERIES HAVE INTRIGUED ME SINCE I FIRST OPENED MY EYES UNDERWATER IN THE BATHTUB"
"AND HOW DID YOU BECOME A CENTURION, MR. RAY?"
"I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A THREE-MONTH-LONG MAPPING OF THE MARIANAS TRENCH IN THE PACIFIC WHEN DOC TERROR BEGAN HIS ATTACKS. WHEN I CAME UP, BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE, I WAS IMMEDIATELY RECRUITED TO HANDLE SEA OPERATIONS FOR THE CENTURIONS."

"WHAT ABOUT YOU, MR. ROCKWELL?"
"AUSTIN, TEXAS, IS WHERE I HAIL FROM, MISS BORSER. MY DADDY WAS IN CHARGE OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE PRAIRIE PRESERVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY. I TREATED IT LIKE MY OWN PRIVATE PLAYGROUND, LEARNING HOW TO RIDE HORSES AND ROPE CATTLE JUST LIKE MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDDADDY DID TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO!"
"WHEN THE LAST WAR BEGAN, I JOINED UP REAL QUICK, AND LED A BATTALION OF MEN AGAINST THE ENEMY ON THE INDOCHINESE FRONT.
"I DON'T LIKE TO BRAG, BUT THEY SAID IT WAS BRAVERY IN BATTLE THAT GOT ME PROMOTED ALL THE WAY TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BEFORE THE WAR WAS OVER
"AND THEN THE WAR WAS OVER AND I BECAME NOTHING MORE THAN A FIGUREHEAD. THERE WAS NOBODY LEFT TO FIGHT. IT WAS BORING!
"BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED FOR ME WAS DOC TERROR. I JUMPED AT THE CHANCE TO COMMAND LAND OPERATIONS FOR THE CENTURIONS... AND WOULD I LOVE TO GET INTO A BIT OF MANO-A-MANO WITH THAT GUY!"


"FASCINATING, MR. MCCLOUD, WEREN'T YOU PART OF THE ORIGINAL PLANETARY EXPLORATION TEAM DR. KANE ASSEMBLED?"
"RIGHT YOU ARE, GORGEOUS. TECHNICALLY, I WAS THE FIRST CENTURION, BUT WE'RE GETTING AHEAD OF OURSELVES.
JULY 29, 2031
"FIRST OFF, I'M NEW YORK CITY BORN AND BRED. LIVED ON THE 214TH FLOOR OF THE TAFT BUILDING RIGHT HERE IN THE HEART OF THE BIG APPLE. GREW UP IN THE CLOUDS, LIKE LOTS OF OTHER KIDS WHOSE PARENTS WORKED IN THE CITY.
"YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I DREAMED OF SOARING THROUGH THOSE CLOUDS... AND BEYOND. I ENROLLED IN FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOOL AS SOON AS THEY'D HAVE ME, DETERMINED TO BECOME THE BEST PILOT IN THE WORLD -- WHICH I AM!
"NATURALLY, CRYSTAL KNEW A WINNER WHEN SHE SAW ONE. I SIGNED UP TO PILOT HER SPACE PROBES. DON'T BELIEVE THE RUMORS YOU HEAR, MIZ BURGER. ABOUT HER BEING SWAYED BY MY LOCKS -- CRYSTAL'S A GREAT JUDGE OF ABILITY!
"THEN, WHEN DOC TERROR STARTED ACTING UP, I JUST SWITCHED OVER THE EARTH-BOUND AIR OPERATIONS FOR THE CENTURIONS! BUT THE DAY'LL COME AGAIN WHEN I'LL BE OUT THERE FLYING PAST PLUTO -- YOU'LL SEE."
"WHICH MAY BE TOMORROW WHEN CRYSTAL HEARS THIS INTERVIEW, ACE!"
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JUST HOW CLOSE IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH DR. KANE, MR. McCLOUD?
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO BE TELLING TALES, BUT THERE ISN'T A MAN ALIVE WHO'S CLOSER TO HER THAN YOURS TRULY
OH. I SEE
WHY, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
I WAS HOPING YOU AND I COULD HAVE DINNER THIS EVENING BUT IF YOU AND DR. KANE...
NO PROBLEM, MIZ BURGER CRYSTAL'LL UNDERSTAND
I KNOW HER LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND SHE WON'T MIND A BIT
WAIT TILL CRYSTAL HEARS THIS ONE!
I DON'T WANT TO BE ON THE SAME CONTINENT WHEN SHE DOES
CAN I CALL YOU AMY?
CERTAINLY... IF I CAN CALL YOU ACE
CALL ME ANYTHING BUT LATE FOR DINNER
WHO WRITES HIS LINES?
MR. RAY, MR. ROCKWELL, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP. WHEN THE DOCUMENTARY IS COMPLETE, I'LL ARRANGE A PRIVATE SCREENING
HAVE A GOOD TIME, ACE WE'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO CRYSTAL
DON'T YOU DARE! LEAVE THAT TO ME
SO, AMY--HOW ABOUT A GENUINE STEAK? I KNOW HOW TO GET JAKE'S FATHER TO LET A COUPLE OF THEM LOOSE
SOUNDS WONDERFUL, ACE

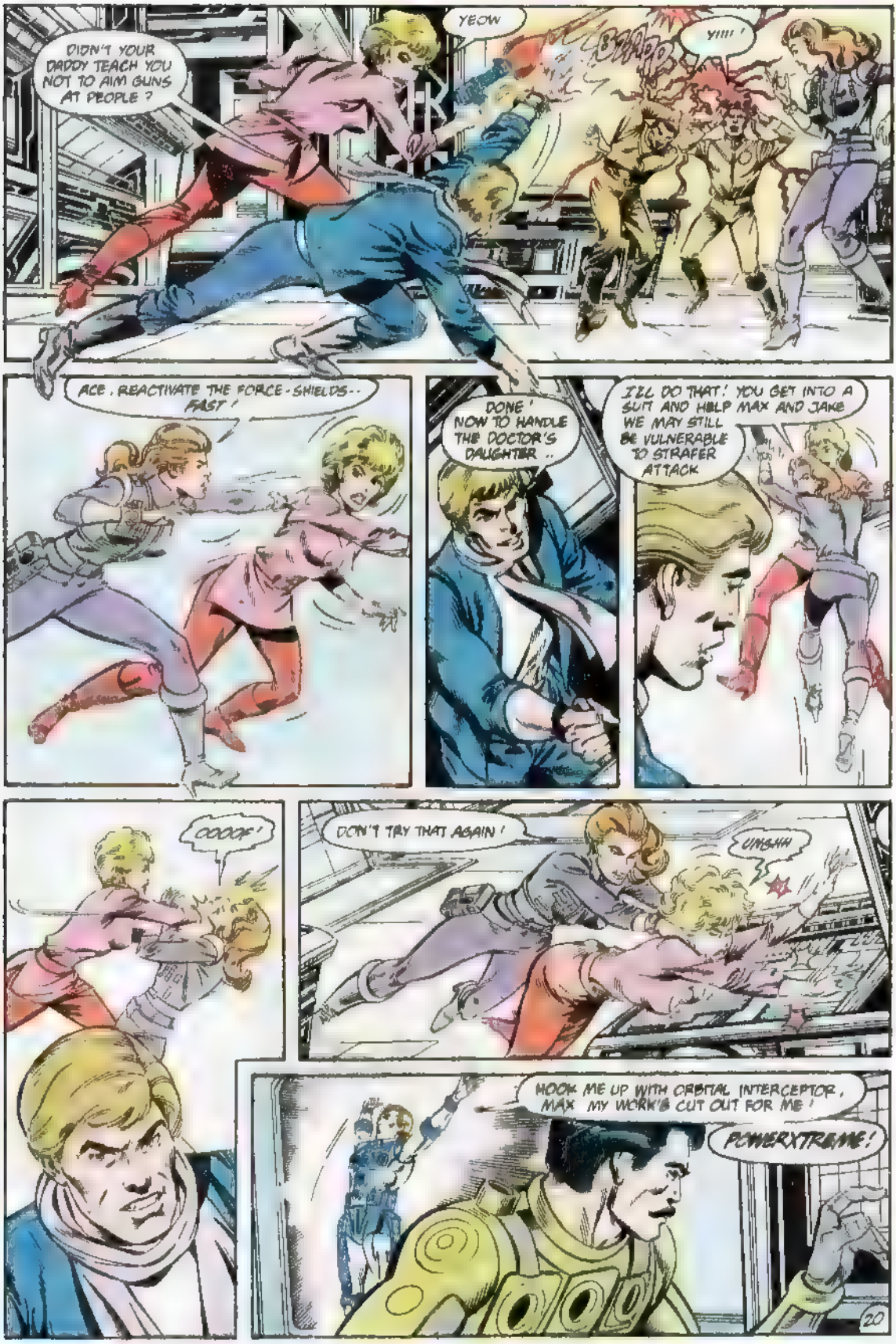
AND LATER IN A RESTAURANT HIGH ABOVE MANHATTAN'S STREETS.
A TOAST TO A DELICIOUS DINNER AND WONDERFUL COMPANY
DR KANE HAS CERTAINLY MADE A WONDERFUL CATCH IN YOU, ACE
COULD WE TALK ABOUT BUSINESS FOR A MINUTE OR TWO?
I GUESS
WHAT'S IT LIKE IN SKYVAULT? DO YOU LIVE THERE?
NO WAY. I'VE GOT A PLACE RIGHT HERE IN NEW YORK, BUT THE LOCATION'S A SECRET SECURITY, YOU KNOW?
TELL ME ABOUT IT! YOUR SECURITY IS WHAT'S KEEPING ME FROM SEEING SKYVAULT I MEAN, I CAN UNDERSTAND NOT WANTING A CAMERA CREW IN THERE BUT JUST SEEING IT WOULD HELP ME SOOOO MUCH
MM-HMM.
YOU KNOW, AMY, THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING I COULD DO ABOUT A PRIVATE TOUR.
SOON
NOTIFY DR KANE THAT MR McCLOUD IS ABOARD... WITH A GUEST
NOW, REMEMBER - ANYBODY GIVES YOU A HARD TIME, YOU TELL THEM TO SEE ME.
ABSOLUTELY I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN THANK YOU FOR THIS
DON'T WORRY I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING

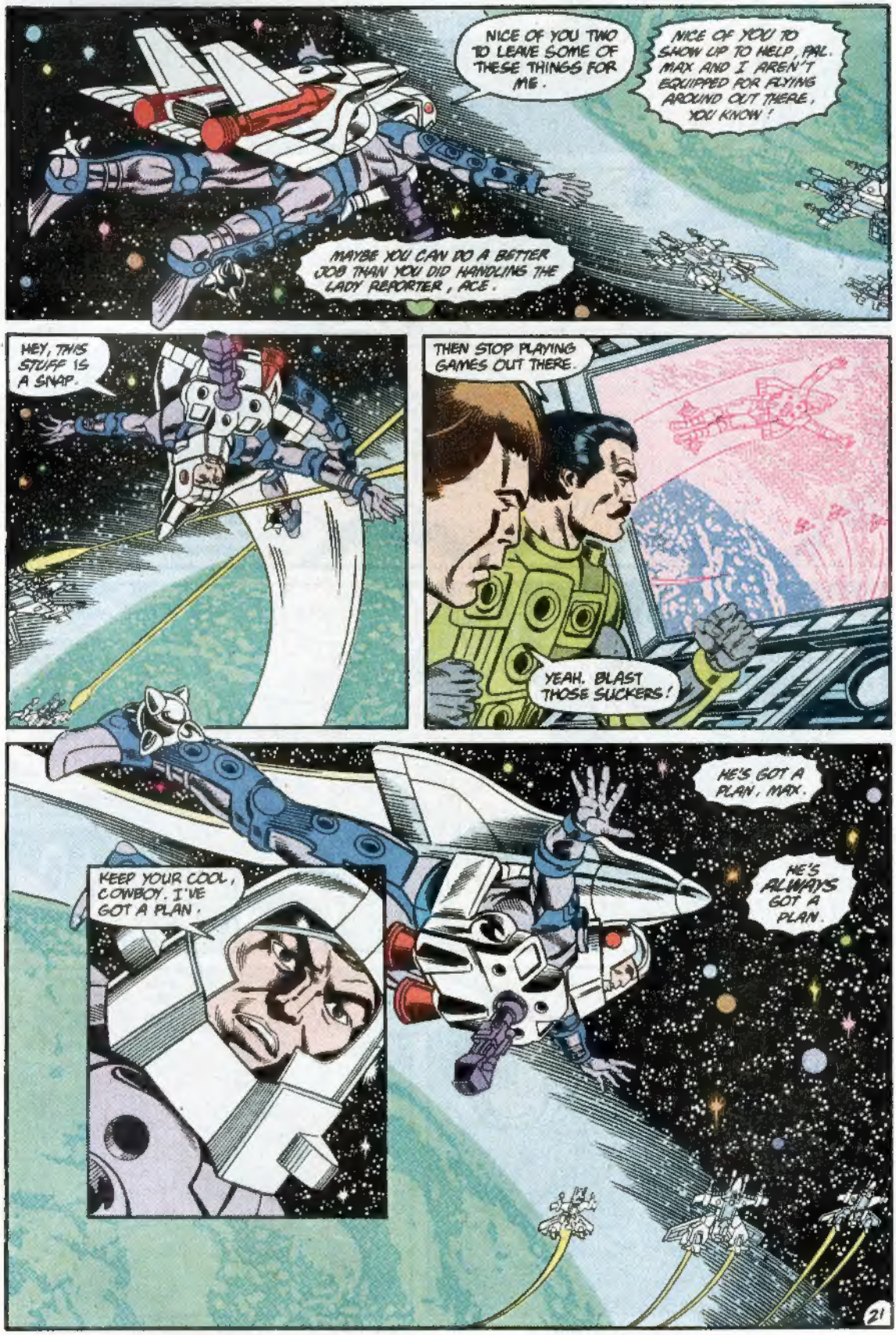
I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH THERE WAS UP HERE
BIGGEST SATELLITE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. TOOK SIX YEARS TO PUT ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER - BUT WORTH EVERY MINUTE OF IT
AND EVERY DOLLAR, I'M SURE
THERE ISN'T MUCH WE DON'T HAVE UP HERE! LOOK: COMPLETE MEDICAL FACILITIES, MACHINE SHOPS AND TESTING AREAS. LIVING QUARTERS FOR THE ON-BOARD CREW...
AND IT'S ALL CONTROLLED FROM RIGHT HERE. WAIT'LL YOU SEE THIS --
ACE McCLOUD, WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?' I DIDN'T GIVE YOU CLEARANCE TO BRING HER UP--
LOOK OUT!
THANK YOU FOR THE TOUR, ACE I'LL HANDLE MYSELF NOW

MEANWHILE, IN CENTURION'S HEADQUARTERS DEEP BELOW THE NEW YORK STREETS ...
YOU SURE ARE MAKING IT EASY FOR ME TO BEAT YOU MAX. IS YOUR MIND ANYWHERE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS?
SOMETHING ABOUT THAT REPORTER BOTHERS ME, JAKE. I JUST CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT
QUIT WORRYING. WILL YOU? SHE CLEARED THE COMPUTER SECURITY CHECKS
YOU ONLY GET OUT OF A COMPUTER WHAT SOMEBODY PUTS IN IT. AND I CAN THINK OF A CERTAIN DOC WHO'S PRETTY GOOD WITH MACHINERY
SO?
SO I THINK I'LL GIVE CRYSTAL A CALL AND HAVE HER DOUBLE-CHECK MISS AMY BURDER
AND MOMENTS LATER
TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T PLAY YOUR HUNCH AN HOUR AGO MAX. AMY BURGER'S UP HERE AND SHE'S TAKEN OVER THE CONTROL ROOM
WHAT?!? WHERE'S ACE?
LOCKED IN THERE WITH HER, UNCONSCIOUS. WE'RE CUTTING OUR WAY IN NOW
HANG ON! WE'RE ON OUR WAY!
OUR ROMANTIC BUDDY'S GOTTEN HIMSELF IN DEEP TROUBLE THIS TIME, JAKE
I'LL BET CRYS CAN'T WAIT TO RESCUE HIM.. SO SHE CAN KILL HIM
DR. KANE, RADAR SHOWS A NUMBER OF DOC TERROR'S STRAFERS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED FROM THE ARCTIC
THEIR PROJECTED TARGET IS SKYVAULT AND THE COMPUTER SHOWS OUR SHIELDS HAVE BEEN TURNED OFF!
EVERYBODY HANG ON IT'S GOING TO GET BUMPY

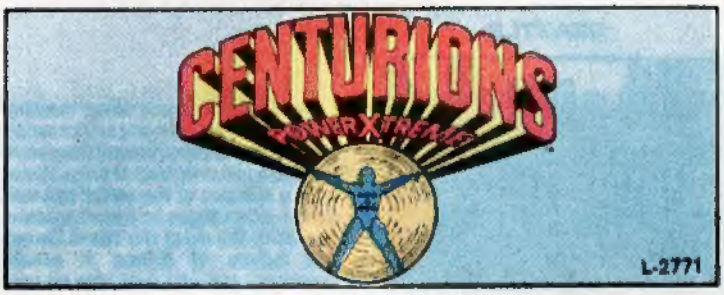
"HOOK UP MAX WITH CRUISER AND JAKE WITH DETONATOR WHEN THEY ARRIVE"
POWERXTREME!
"DOME DR KANE"
"DR KANE THE FIRST STRAFER HAS BLASTED A HOLE IN SKYVAULT!"
"ALL TECHNICIANS RETREAT TO AIRTIGHT AREAS LET MAX AND JAKE HANDLE THIS"
HANG ON, JAKE OR WE'LL GET CARRIED OUT OF HERE WITH THE RUSH OF ESCAPING AIR
ELECTRO-MAGNETS IN MY SHOES HAVE ME LOCKED ON BOARD, PARTNER. YOU WANT THE FIRST SHOT"
NICE OF YOU TO SHARE THE ACTION ONE HYDRO-MISSILE, COMING UP!
SWAAM
NEXT ONE IS MINE WATCH WHAT SONIC RAY GUNS DO TO TERROR'S BABIES!

HEY! AM I OUT OF POWER OR WHAT?
THERE'S NO AIR LEFT IN HERE JAKE--NOTHING TO CARRY THE SONIC WAVES.
I WOULD'VE THOUGHT OF THAT LASER BEAM ON THE NOSE... NO AIR NECESSARY!
SEE WHAT THAT DOES TO THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM
SURE HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY ALIEN BEINGS OUT THERE TO RUN INTO THAT BABY MIGHT END UP STARTING AN INTERPLANETARY WAR!
MEANWHILE IN THE CONTROL ROOM...
YOU COULDN'T KEEP US OUT OF HERE FOR LONG, BURGER ... OR SHOULD I SAY "AMBER"?
SO, YOU'VE DISCOVERED WHO I REALLY AM THE KNOWLEDGE WILL DO YOU NO GOOD WHEN YOUR ATOMS ARE SCATTERED ACROSS SPACE
HUNH? WHAT'S SHE SAYING?
WITH SKYVAULT'S DEFENSES DOWN, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MY FATHER'S STRAFERS DESTROY THIS ENTIRE SATELLITE!
10


DIDN'T YOUR DADDY TEACH YOU NOT TO AIM GUNS AT PEOPLE ?
YEOW
BLAP
YIIII !
ACE . REACTIVATE THE FORCE - SHIELDS -- FAST !
DONE ! NOW TO HANDLE THE DOCTOR'S DAUGHTER ..
I'LL DO THAT ! YOU GET INTO A SUIT AND HELP MAX AND JAKE WE MAY STILL BE VULNERABLE TO STRAFER ATTACK
OOOOF !
DON'T TRY THAT AGAIN !
UMPH
HOOK ME UP WITH ORBITAL INTERCEPTOR , MAX MY WORK'S CUT OUT FOR ME !
POWERXTREME !
20


NICE OF YOU TWO TO LEAVE SOME OF THESE THINGS FOR ME.
NICE OF YOU TO SHOW UP TO HELP, PAL. MAX AND I AREN'T EQUIPPED FOR FLYING AROUND OUT THERE, YOU KNOW!
MAYBE YOU CAN DO A BETTER JOB THAN YOU DID HANDLING THE LADY REPORTER, ACE.
HEY, THIS STUFF IS A SNAP.
THEN STOP PLAYING GAMES OUT THERE.
YEAH. BLAST THOSE SUCKERS!
KEEP YOUR COOL, COWBOY. I'VE GOT A PLAN.
HE'S GOT A PLAN, MAX.
HE'S ALWAYS GOT A PLAN.

WATCH HOW I SAVE THE BUDGET, BOYS. ONE PARTICLE BEAM MISSILE--
--TO TAKE OUT THREE STRAFERS!
GREAT! WE'LL USE THE MONEY YOU SAVED TO REPAIR THE HOLE IN THE WALL!
WHEN YOU'RE DONE PATTING YOURSELF ON THE BACK, MEET US IN THE CONTROL ROOM.
AND, SOON...
WHERE'S THAT DEVIL-WOMAN? NOBODY MAKES A FOOL OUT OF ACE McCLOUD...
...EXCEPT ACE McCLOUD HIMSELF!
AMBER SET THE TRANSPORTER CONTROLS TO TAKE HER HOME JUST BEFORE THE STRAFERS DESTROYED SKYVAULT..
--BUT I QUICKLY READJUSTED HER ARCTIC COORDINATES A LITTLE. INSTEAD OF ENDING UP INSIDE--
--SHE'S AT THE FRONT DOOR!
DADDY!! HACKER!! OPEN THE BLASTED DOOR BEFORE I FREEZE TO DEATH!
POUND
POUND
POUND
THE END



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Welcome back to the 21st century!

As you can see, the Centurions are still up to their necks in excitement battling Doc Terror's nefarious schemes. And with the action-packed stories we've got planned, believe me, Max, Jake, and Ace *aren't* going on any extended holidays for awhile!

Last issue, I began to tell you about some of our behind the scenes personnel. This issue, I'd like to extend a very special thanks to artist extraordinaire Kevin Nowlan for contributing our first two covers. Kevin was in the middle of developing a truly exciting project for us at DC when I called and asked if he'd be our four issue cover artist. He was kind enough to schedule us in for two covers and the results have been nothing less than sensational. Keep your eyes open for his upcoming work as this is one talented guy who's clearly going to rise to the top of this profession!

In the meantime, we're still awaiting your comments on this series to print in an upcoming letter column. So, till the postman drops off those sacks of mail (I'm expecting them any day now), once again I thought you'd like to have another inside look at the futuristic society that the Centurions live in. See you next month!

—Jonathan

AUSTIN:

An excerpted interview with Samuel A. Rockwell, Chairman of the Austin Historical Society

Q: Let's turn to the prairie preserve, Mr. Rockwell. Many people say it was a boon to the area, while others call it a boondoggle. What made you decide to go ahead with it?

A: Well, I guess a lot of the reason is my kids. They'd heard their grandfather tell them about his grandfather's life as a cattle rancher and they were fascinated by the stories of all that open space where the animals were allowed to run free. It wasn't too easy to convince them that such a time had existed, before the world's population had grown to such massive proportions.

Q: But there are photographs, films of such things.

A: And lots of old movies with cowboys shooting Indians, most of which are fantasy. No, I was determined to create an area like that of the olden days so that people would always correctly remember the past.

Q: But how exactly did you get the city to agree to give up such a valuable piece of land?

A: The same way historical societies in other cities get them to save old buildings. I pointed out that Texas was known for its wide open spaces and that it was our duty to protect them, just as New York protected its old theaters and museums. Of course, having the money and political power I held at the time didn't hurt either!

Q: I'll bet. Has the preserve been successful? Have you had to fight off moves by the city to reclaim the land for housing and businesses?

A: There have been a couple of attempts, but you have to realize that to many true Texans, this preserve is as much a shrine as the Alamo. And it does generate income. We've been raising cattle on the preserve and selling the beef. I don't have to tell you what kind of prices that can command.

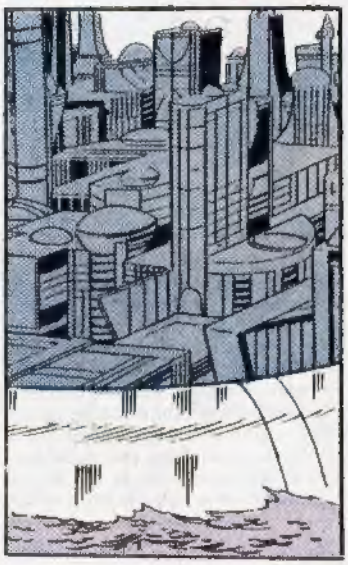
Q: Do you still visit the preserve?

A: Not as much as I used to. Since my kids grew up, there isn't anyone nagging me to take them to "the playground" as Jake used to call it. He was a loner, that boy. Sometimes I think he was born a century too late. Should've been working with his great-great-grandfather.

SEATTLE:

Early in the 21st century, the deterioration of the ozone layer caused a slight warming of the Earth. This in turn caused a melting of the polar ice cap, thereby raising the levels of the ocean. The level of the Puget Sound rose, flooding some of the areas of the city. A specially reinforced plexiglass barrier was constructed along the shoreline to hold back the waters.

Five years later, during a tremendous west coast Earthquake, the city was severely shaken and the entire area around it sank below sea level. Seattle was flooded, but most of the buildings were still intact. Like a modern-day Venice, the city now had canals instead of streets.



However, the severe winter weather played havoc with the city and its canals and the city fathers realized they would have to again drive back the sea. Based on the success of the earlier sea wall, construction began on a more massive one. With the aid of the World Council and billions of dollars in private donations, the city was able to save itself.

Now considered one of the seven wonders of the modern world, the Seattle Seawall is visited by millions of tourists each year and has turned what many considered a doomed city into one of the most prosperous metropolises on Earth.

NEW YORK:

TRANSIT STRIKE CRIPPLES CITY FOR FIFTY-THIRD DAY

(New York)—The fifty-third day of the mass transit strike has left businesses around the city pondering a massive departure from operating in New York in order to carry on some semblance of work. "We can't go on like this," said a spokesman for JonCo, a major manufacturer of computers. "Three-quarters of our work force has been unable to get to work for seven and a half weeks. We're facing such an incredible loss of business that we may have to shut down completely."

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES BALMUTH DESIGN

(New York)—The City Council approved today the Balmuth Corporation's revolutionary architectural design which would enable buildings in Manhattan to be constructed to heights of two hundred stories and more. Melanie Vandire, president of Balmuth, said that she hoped a major corporation would be interested in joining with Balmuth in constructing the city's—and the world's—first super-skyscraper.

TAFTCO TO CONSTRUCT FIRST SUPERSCRAPER

(New York)—Taftco, one of the leading multifaceted corporations in the world, announced today that it would be the first to build a super-skyscraper based on the Balmuth design. Citing last year's ten-week transit strike, chairperson of the board Judith Fireman said, "We cannot afford to be held hostage by a strike. We will utilize the upper floors of the building for housing our employees and their families. This will enable people to get to work by simply riding an elevator."

Fireman, joining with Balmuth president Melanie Vandire, unveiled the design of the building, which would also include levels of shopping malls, enclosed parks, schools, and recreational areas. "It will be a city within itself," said Fireman, "and we feel that Taftco employees will benefit enormously. With the added efficiency created by having our work force on premises at all times, we expect Taftco to grow even larger than ever."

CITY APPROVES SEVEN MORE SUPERSCRAPERS

(New York)—The City Council has approved the construction of seven more superscrapers in Manhattan, bringing the total of the buildings to forty-one. Like their predecessors, the new buildings will include housing for employees on the upper floors, along with shopping, recreation, and educational facilities.